

OCCUPATION MOBILITY AMONG THE SCHEDULE CASTE: A STUDY ON THE GUIJAN VILLAGE OF TINSUKIA DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Occupation is an activity which is carried out by an individual as a source of livelihood. It is very dynamic activity which varies depending upon ones nature, occupation of previous generation, lifestyle etc. It has been observed that in every community, occupation of people changes with the changing generation, which occurs due to various reasons. The present paper discuss about the occupational mobility of schedule caste community of Guijan village of Assam. Since ancient times the people of this community is engaged in the occupation of fishing and due to this reason the people of this particular community mostly resides near the bank of river Brahmaputra. It has been observed that with every changing generation the occupational activity of this community is also changing. Therefore keeping in view the above situation this paper attempts to highlight the occupational mobility of the schedule caste people.

KEYWORDS: *Dynamic, Generation, Brahmaputra & Occupational*

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INTRODUCTION

Occupation is one of the most important factor to measure the economic standard of any individual or any community because they tend to choose their occupation in relation to their prestige. Those people who are engaged in best income generated occupation they get high status in the society and their living standard is very high. On the other hand those people who are engaged in less income generated occupation, their economic status is very low in the society and their living standard is also very poor. Job satisfaction is a very important factor in any occupation. If a person engaged in any occupation is not satisfied with his occupation than he or she cannot render better service in the occupation. As a result the person intends to change the occupation to get a better status and to led a comfortable lifestyle. Occupational mobility is defined as the percentage of currently employed individuals who report a current occupation different from their most recent previous report of an occupation, as in (Kambourov and Manovskii, 2004). In simple words occupational mobility actually refers to the changes in the income of an individual due to change of his/ her work which in turn changes the socio-economic profile of an individual or a family.

As we all know that the Schedule caste is one of the most backward group of people in India and they occupied the lowest rank in the hierchy of social caste system. From ancient times they have been always oppressed and humiliated by the upper caste society due to their filthy occupational structure and are often considered as untouchables which is mainly responsible for their slow economic growth till now. But with the changing scenario of our country the condition of the schedule caste people are also improving as government is making serious efforts by developing certain laws and policies for the upliftment of Schedule Caste people such as- reservation of seats in the Parliament and State legislatures, reservation of jobs in the Government and Semi

Government services, reservation of seats in the educational institutions especially in institutions of the higher learning such as Colleges and Universities for their social and educational advancement and many more. As a result now a days, instead of remaining in the occupations of their forefathers the SC people are changing their occupation from usual fishing, cultivation etc to other economically benefitted sectors of the economy such as- Govt. service, teacher, business etc. Therefore in this paper an attempt has been made by the researcher to throw a light on the present condition of the SC people as well as to find out the extension of their development as compared to the other groups of people of the society.

The rate of occupational mobility is particularly based on the data collected from the individuals. Occupational mobility can be of two types i.e. intergenerational and intra- generational. Intergenerational occupational mobility refers to the change of ones occupation from one generation to another generation. Where as intra-generational occupational mobility refers to the change of one's occupation within their own generation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dehingia (2017) has conducted a study entitled "Occupational mobility among the kaibartas: the study based on three urban fringe villages of Dibrugarh district of Assam, India". The study concluded that, the Kailbartas are traditionally a fishing community of Assam. They were also considered as one of the socially and economically weak and deprived community. But At present, with changing scenario they are engaged in variety of income generating activities to augment their socioeconomic position by changing their traditional occupation.

Butool (2018) in his study on "Scheduled Caste Occupational Mobility: A Study in Askaranpur Magrohani Village of Sirathu Block in Kaushambi District" have concluded that occupational distribution depending upon the caste is not the problem of past or the incidental force creating inequality, but an active agent in growing the gap between those at the top and those at the bottom of Indian Society. There is an upward intergenerational occupational mobility among the scheduled caste population of Askaranpur Magrohani village of Sirathu block of Kaushambi District.

Gang, Sen and Yun. (2012) in their research study entitled "Is Caste Destiny? Occupational Diversification among Dalits in Rural India" concluded that there is a discernible direct effect of caste identity on occupational diversification, which is observed since 1980s to the early 2000s. But now the SCs are able to move out of the occupation which has the highest incidence of poverty, which is agricultural labour, at a greater pace than the OCCs, leading to a convergence in occupational types between these two social groups over time.

Kaur (2015) in her research study entitled "Socio – Economic Mobility among Schedule Caste: A Study of Village Mugalmagri in Rupnagar District of Punjab" have concluded that majority of respondents have considered education and occupation is one of the most important factor for their social mobility. The respondent are getting information through TV and Radio about new schemes launched by Govt and most of them are a waling.

Rajarshi Majumder (2010) in her study entitled "Intergenerational Mobility in Educational and Occupational Attainment: A Comparative Study of Social Classes in India" has found that only few castes among the scheduled caste people are showing upward occupational mobility.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this paper is to study the occupational mobility of the Schedule Caste people living in the Guijan village of Tinsukia district of Assam.

METHODOLOGY

To understand the occupational mobility of schedule caste people in Guijan village of Tinsukia district of Assam, a field survey was conducted. The sample of the study consist of 50 households in Guijan village under Tinsukia district of assam.

The data for the present study was collected from the primary source. Interview schedule was applied as a tool for the collection the required data.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Table 1: Occupation of Respondents

Occupation	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Fishing	9	18 %
Cultivation	1	2 %
Animal husbandry	3	6 %
Business	23	46 %
Government and private service	6	12 %
Any other	8	16 %
Total	50	100 %

Table 1 revealed that out of total 50 respondents, majority of them i.e.23 (46 %) are engaged in Business such as grocery shop, vegetable selling, cosmetic shop etc. On the other hand 9 respondents (18 %) are engaged in fishing or fish selling activities. Only 8 respondents i.e. (16 %) are found to have been involved in any other activities such as Auto rickshaw driver, workers of steel factory, mason, mechanic, carpenter etc. It has been also found that 6 (12 %) respondents are engaged in Government and private sector services such as private school teachers, defence personal and other employee of government. And only 3 respondent i.e. 6 % are found doing animal husbandry and lastly a very negligible i.e. 2 % of people are engaged in activity of cultivation.

Table 2: Occupation of Respondent's Father

Occupation	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Fishing	31	62 %
Cultivation	2	4 %
Animal husbandry	0	0 %
Business	14	28 %
Government and private service	3	6 %
Any other	0	0 %
Total	50	100%

Table 2 revealed that out of total 50 respondents a majority of the respondents i.e. 31 (62 %) are found to have been engaged in the occupation of fishing. More than 25 % i.e. 14 respondents are earning their livelihood by doing business, followed by 6 % are involved in government and private service, followed by 4 % engaged in cultivation. No person was doing the occupation of animal husbandry.

Table 3: Occupation of Respondent's Grandfather

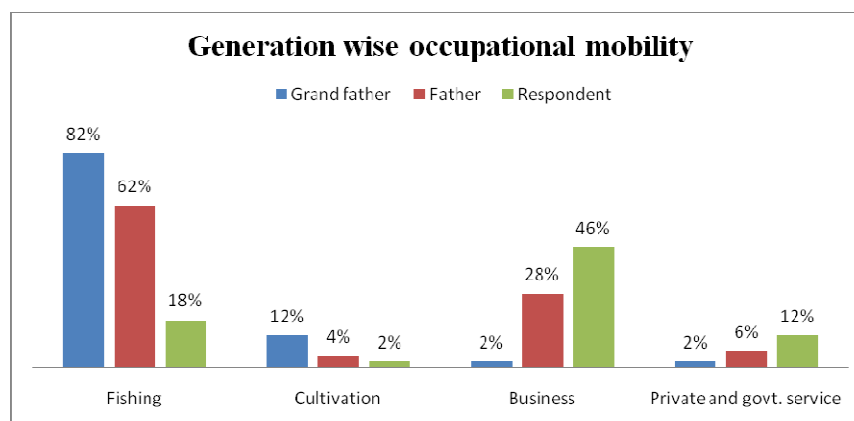
Occupation	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Fishing	41	82 %
Cultivation	6	12 %
Animal husbandry	1	2 %
Business	1	2 %
Government and private service	1	2 %
Any other	0	0 %
Total	50	100 %

From the analysis of Table 3 it has been found that out of 40 respondents (82 %) more than 40 respondents were engaged in the occupation of fishing and 6 i.e. (12 %) were earning their livelihood by doing cultivation and a very negligible percentage of respondents grandfather were following the occupation of animal husband dry (2 %), business (2 %), government and private service (2 %).

Table 4: Generation wise Occupation Mobility

Generation	Occupation			
	Fishing	Cultivation	Business	Private and Govt. Service
Grand father	82 %	12 %	2 %	2 %
Father	62 %	4 %	28 %	6 %
Respondent	18 %	2 %	46 %	12 %
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 4 revealed that, in case of fishing there is a vast difference between the occupation of grandfather, father and present generation. More than 80 % of the respondents grandfather were engaged in fishing occupation but it has been decreased to 62% in case of respondents fathers occupation followed by 18 % in case of respondents occupation. In case of cultivation again it has been found that cultivation as a source of earning livelihood has also decreased generation by generation (respondent's grandfather 12 %, respondent's fathers 4 %, and respondent 2 %). On the other hand in the field of business it has been observed that there is a vast occupational mobility of the people from past to present generation. Whereas only 2 % of respondents grandfather were engaged in business but it has increased to 28 % in case of respondent's father and 46 % in respondent's generation. Again in case of private and government service it has been observed that though only 2 % of the respondent's grand fathers were involved in private and govt. service but it has increased to 12 % in case of respondent of present generation. The data analyzed in table-4 has been shown in figure 1.

**Figure 1: Generation wise Occupational Mobility of the Schedule Caste People**

FINDINGS

A very close observation of the data revealed the occupational pattern of the respondent are completely different from the occupation of their forefathers. The respondents in the present study have replied that they are not interested in continuing the occupation of their forefathers. The respondent have also replied that because of less income and poor social status they do not want to pursue the occupation of their fore fathers. Some of the major findings of this study are as follows-

- Majority (46%) of the respondent (present generation) are engaged in business as their main occupation.
- A very low percentage i.e. 2 % of respondents generation are dependent on cultivation for their income generation.
- More than 60 % of respondent's father generation is engaged in fishing as their main source of livelihood.
- A minimum of 4 % of respondents father generation are involved in cultivation.
- More than 80 % of respondent's grandfather generation is dependent on fishing for their livelihood.
- Fishing occupation as a source of earning is decreasing with passing generation.
- The involvement of people in private and government service is increasing day by day with changing generation.
- With changing generation the people doing cultivation is decreasing rigorously.

CONCLUSIONS

From the above discussion it can be concluded that though the schedule caste people are one of the backward group of people in our Indian society. Their status in the society is very low, and they are mostly engaged in primary activity of fishing, cultivation etc which continuing since the time of their forefathers. But with changing time they realized that if they continue in the same occupation which is set by their forefathers then they will never be able to upgrade themselves with this dynamic society, moreover they have also understand that if they want a good status in the society and lead a more healthy and comfortable lifestyle then changing of their occupation is necessary. From the study it is clear that that the schedule caste people are actually changing their occupation to a great extent due to which now a days they are developing in every sector of society (education, economic etc).

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